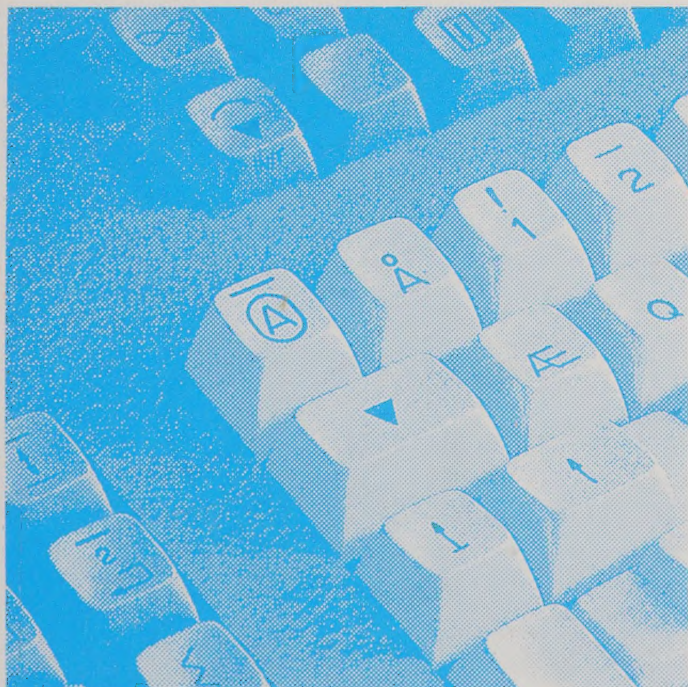




Health & Safety  
Executive

TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

# the specialists



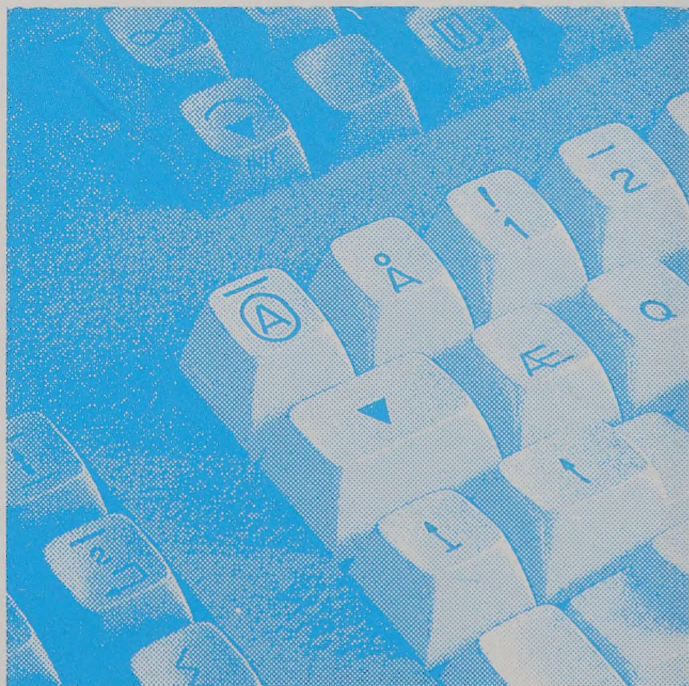
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An introductory guide to the work of the specialist inspectors in the Health and Safety Executive's Technology Division.



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# the specialists



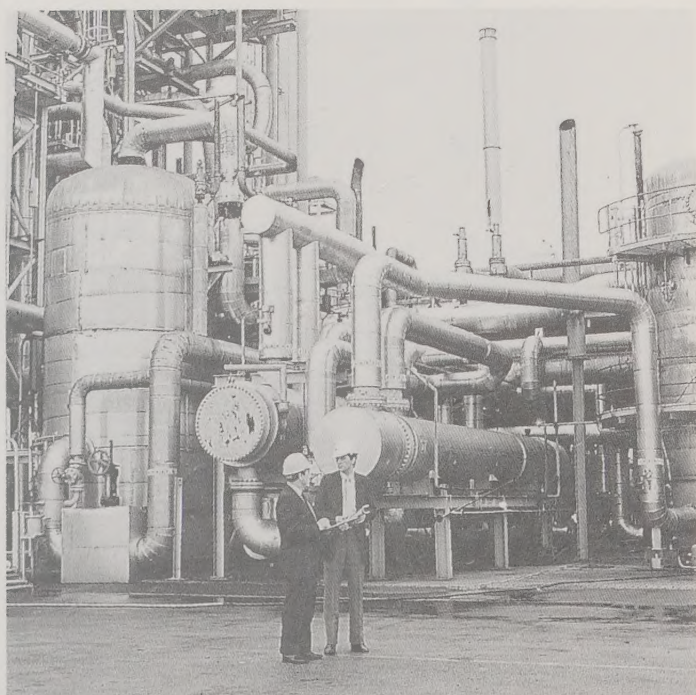


## TECHNOLOGY DIVISION (TD)

Provides a source of specialist advice on technical issues to other parts of the Health and Safety Executive, and to industry, local and central government and the public.

## THE SPECIALISTS

The specialist inspectors of Technology Division are qualified engineers or scientists, most holding chartered status in a professional institution and with experience of working in industry in positions of responsibility.



## **SPECIALIST DISCIPLINES**

- Chemical, civil, structural, mechanical, electrical and electronics engineers.
- Chemists, physicists, occupational hygienists, microbiologists, risk analysts.

## **WHAT DOES TECHNOLOGY DIVISION DO?**

- Gives technical support to other parts of HSE in their work under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, and related legislation.
- Provides technical advice on health and safety issues to all sectors of industry, the public and other government departments.
- Takes an active role in the development of those national and international standards which have significant health and safety implications.
- Formulates technical guidance in consultation and often in collaboration, with industry.
- Assesses the risks from major hazard sites and advises planning authorities on applications for developments at, or near, such sites.
- Undertakes basic inspection of certain high hazard activities such as explosives, dangerous pathogens and radiation sources.

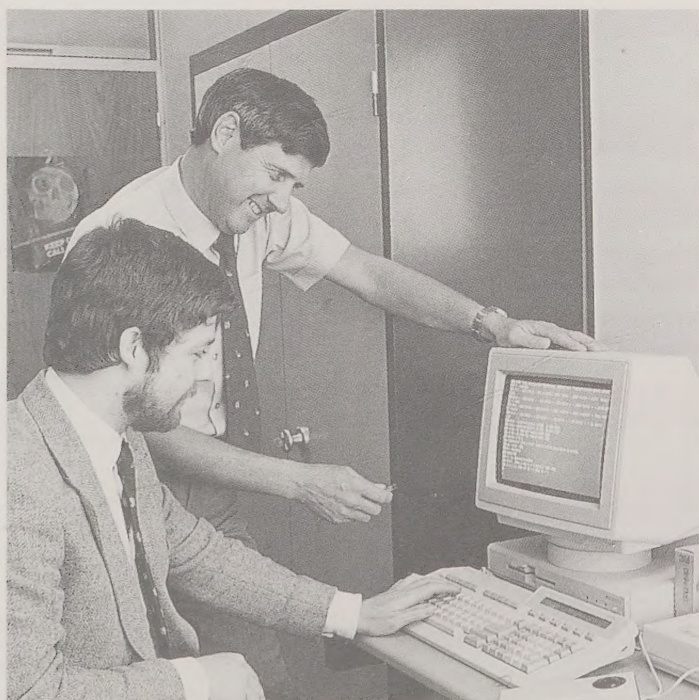
## HOW DOES TECHNOLOGY DIVISION CARRY OUT THIS WORK?

Through multi-disciplinary teams of specialist inspectors. These teams have the flexibility necessary to meet the needs of different situations, often where fast developing technologies are involved.

There are Headquarters Specialist Units based at HSE's Bootle HQ which tackle matters at national and international levels.

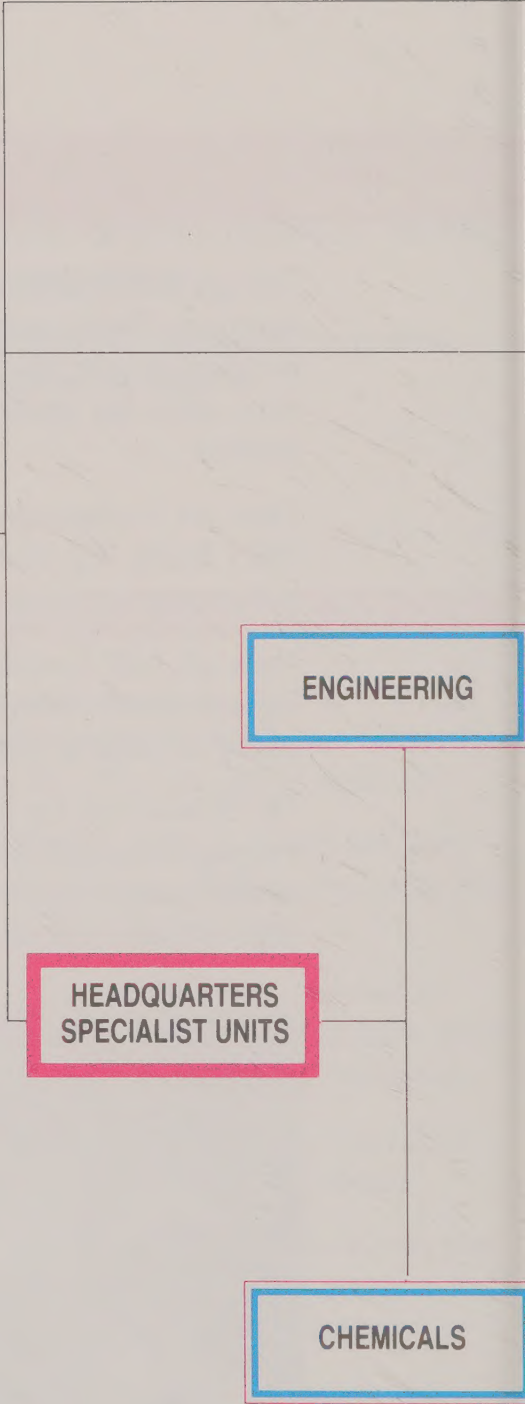
There are Field Consultant Groups (FCGs) based in regional centres throughout the country which react quickly to needs at a local level.

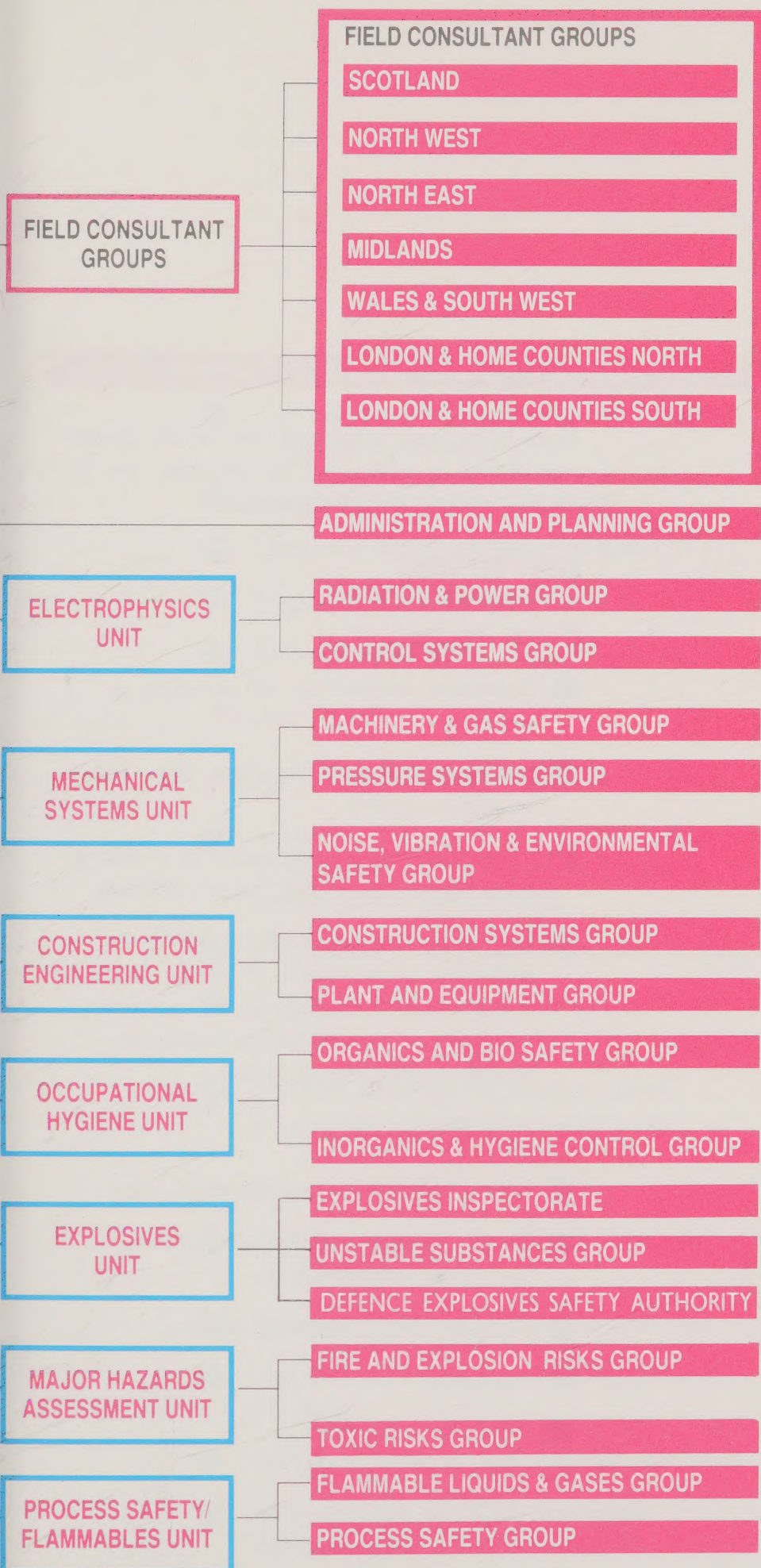
The Division also has a central Administration and Planning Group (APG) based in Bootle which handles resource planning, personnel functions and other common services for TD.





**DIRECTOR  
TECHNOLOGY  
DIVISION**





## HEADQUARTERS SPECIALIST UNITS

These Units come under two arms of the Division, each headed by a Deputy Chief Inspector, one for Engineering and one for Chemicals.

### ENGINEERING

#### Electro-Physics Unit

- Generation, distribution and utilisation of electricity
- Ignition hazards (including those from radio-frequency sources)
- Ionising and non-ionising radiations (including inspection of certain high hazard activities)
- Control systems engineering (covering the application of mechanical, electrical, electronic and computer technology to the monitoring, measurement, control and protection of hazardous plant and processes)

#### Mechanical Systems Unit

- Noise, vibration and environmental safety
- Pressure systems and transport involving pressurised containers
- Machinery and safeguarding systems
- Gas safety
- Metallurgical processes



## **Construction Engineering Unit**

- Civil and structural engineering, also temporary works and demolition
- Diving and underwater construction
- Cranes and lifting equipment (all uses)
- Materials handling systems
- Plant and equipment

## **CHEMICALS**

### **Occupational hygiene unit**

- Assessment and control of hazardous substances (including personal protection equipment) in relation to occupational health
- Data collection and surveys for standard setting
- Biosafety, microbiological hazards and biotechnology
- Inspection of dangerous pathogen, genetic manipulation and biotechnology activities

### **Explosives Unit**

- National centrepiece for technical advice on explosives
- Inspection and licensing of explosives facilities
- Unstable chemical substances, flammable solids and dusts
- Carriage of explosives and dangerous substances
- Safety standards for MOD conventional explosives areas

### **Major Hazards Assessment Unit**

- Assessment of risks from chemical major hazards
- Advice to planning authorities about proposed development at, or near, major hazard sites
- Techniques and criteria for quantified risk assessment

### **Process Safety and Flammables Unit**

- Manufacture, storage, processing and carriage of toxic and flammable substances
- Technical standards relating to NIHHS (Notification of Installations Handling Hazardous Substances Regulations 1982) and CIMAH (Control of Industrial Major Accident Hazards Regulations 1984)
- General fire precautions and certificates under the Fire Certificates (Special Premises) Regulations 1976
- Major hazard aspects of transportation
- Fire and explosion hazards arising from the use of flammable liquids and gases



## FIELD CONSULTANT GROUPS

- Are located in 7 regional centres - Edinburgh, Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham, Luton, Cardiff and East Grinstead
- Advise field inspectorates and others, both inside and outside HSE, on technical matters associated with health and safety at work
- Support the Headquarters Specialist Units on the development of technical standards
- Are assisted by local scientific support units from HSE's Research and Laboratory Services Division
- Are closely linked to TD Headquarters Specialist Units to ensure work undertaken at national and local levels is complementary

## ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING GROUP

- Resource planning and monitoring
- Personnel functions
- Common functions for the Division
- Preparation of divisional instructions

## FURTHER INFORMATION

This introductory leaflet can only give an outline of the work undertaken by Technology Division.

Anyone wishing to obtain further information from the Division should in the first instance call 051-951 3531.

